Project Ideas - Marital Status

Project Ideas	1. How have living arrangements and marital status changed between 2001 and 2011?
	2. Is marriage the key to a healthy life?
	3. Change in marital status amongst older people. Has the divorce rate amongst older people in Northern Ireland changed over time?
Potential Development of Project Ideas	1. Of NILS members aged 16 years old or over and considered themselves as single in 2001 almost a quarter did not consider themselves single a decade later (Source: Marital Status fact Sheet). Potential development: Consider who is getting married, attributes such as age, employment status, religion and social classification. Do these married couples now live together or did they cohabit prior to marriage, if so for how long. Over three quarters of singles in 2001 are still single in 2011, would also be interesting to look at who these people are and also look at their living arrangement. From this, look into how many are cohabiting with a partner and potentially look at average duration of cohabitation with a partner prior to marriage.
	2. Looking at individuals with a change in marital status between 2001 and 2011, then see how this has impacted on their health. Compare two main changes in marital status: (1) The individual has got married and (2) The individual has gone through a divorce or separation. Consider how do both changes impact on self reported health and levels of depression.
	3. It has been suggested that increased financial independence for women, longer life expectancy and the loss of stigma to being divorced has led to increased divorce rates for the over 60s in England & Wales. How does this compare to Northern Ireland figures?
LS Projects relevant to Project ideas	Marital status, living arrangements and health: trends, comparisons and causes. Michael Murphy, London School of Economics and Political Science, Emily Grundy and Harriet Young, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Seppo Koskinen, National Public Health Institute, Helsinki and Pekka Martikainen, University of Helsinki. [Project number 30021] https://www.ucl.ac.uk/celsius/projects-using-the-ons-ls/murphy-30021 (relevant to Project Ideas 1 and 2). ONS article relevant to Project Idea 3: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/family-demography/older-people-divorcing/2011/sty-divorce.html)
SLS Projects relevant to Project ideas	Marital status, health and mortality: the role of living arrangement. Paul Boyle (University of St Andrews), Peteke Feijten (University of St Andrews), Gillian Raab (University of St Andrews) and Lin Hattersley (GROS) [Project Number: 2007_001] http://sls.lscs.ac.uk/projects/view/2007_001/ (relevant to Project Ideas 1 and 2).
NILS Documents and fact Sheets	Marital Status fact Sheet